

*Chairtonetta albeola*. A small flock remained at Moon Island, Boston Bay, during the winter.

*Gallinago delicata*. A pair spent the past severe winter along a small brook in the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

*Ægialitis vocifera*. Two were observed in the Middlesex Fells, Mass., on April 6, 1904.

*Nyctea nyctea*. One was seen March 5, 1904, at Squantum, Mass.

*Acanthis linaria*. A flock of ten Redpolls and one Goldfinch was observed in the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass., February 13, 1904. On March 2, 1904, a flock containing one Redpoll and thirteen Pine Finches was recorded in Brookline, Mass.

*Mimus polyglottos*. One passed the winter in Jamaica Plain, Mass. We last recorded it on April 6, 1904.

*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. Observed on January 1, 1904, in Brookline, Mass., and January 8, 1904, at Chestnut Hill, Mass. (Auk, Vol. XXI, p. 283).—FRANCIS G. AND MAURICE C. BLAKE, *Brookline, Mass.*

**Scott Oriole, Gray Vireo, and Phœbe in Northeastern New Mexico.**—*Icterus parisorum* was found during the breeding season last summer on both sides of the thirty-fifth parallel, a little west of the one hundred and fourth meridian, which is an extension of its range from southern New Mexico. On May 26 one was seen in some box elders on the Pecos River a few miles from Santa Rosa, south of the thirty-fifth parallel, and on May 28 another was noted in a cañon in the same locality. Near Montoya, at the base of the northernmost point of the Staked Plains, north of the thirty-fifth parallel, in the middle of June a pair of the birds were going about among the junipers, and the song of the male was heard continually.

*Vireo vicinior* was also found in the junipers at Montoya, which is an extension of range from Western Texas. Only one specimen was taken but vireos, apparently of the same species, were abundant in the junipers, singing loudly throughout the day. A vireo nest with three newly hatched young was found on June 15. The nest was made principally of shreds of bark, apparently the soft juniper bark, and, unlike ordinary vireo nests, was unadorned.

*Sayornis phæbe* is hardly a bird that one would look for in the arid plains region of New Mexico, but in the cañons breaking down from the plains to the Pecos River exist conditions that are far from those of arid plains. Near Santa Rosa, from our juniper and cactus-covered camp ground, we climbed down into one of these box cañons that boasted numerous water pools, fresh green cottonwoods, willows, woodbine, grapevines, and one patch of cat-tails, in which a warbler that we took for a female Yellowthroat hid away at our approach. Here, in a niche of rock over a water pool we found a pair of phæbes feeding young in the nest on May 29, and the brooding bird was so tame that she let us photograph her at a distance of ten feet, so that her light chin shows to advantage. Her mate

meanwhile called *phæ'-be* from a tree near by, dishing his tail and sweeping out after insects.

Other phæbes were seen about the same time in the vicinity. One, which was apparently catching insects for its young, was seen around one of the deep pools on the outskirts of Santa Rosa. The conditions in these places are so favorable that it would indeed seem strange if wanderers through the region were not occasionally tempted to stop.—  
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## RECENT LITERATURE.

Hoffmann's 'Guide to the Birds of New England and Eastern New York.'<sup>1</sup>—Happy the beginner into whose hands this little volume falls! for his first impressions of bird life, whatever else may betide, will never have to be unlearned. Here is a refreshing book that sets a new standard for similar guides while putting to shame many of greater pretensions. Mr. Hoffmann's long experience as a field observer and his ready grasp of the needs of the beginner have enabled him to season his pages with much that is not only crisply original but, at the same time, is of very practical application in identifying birds afield. We are told in a few words what open eyes may see out-of-doors. The preliminary chapters are concise, the keys, entirely for field identification, are arranged for every month in the year, and the bulk of the volume is devoted to snapshot pen pictures of over two hundred and fifty familiar species of New England birds. The rarities are omitted, but so true to life are these snap shots that I am sure many of us can almost hear the songs and notes familiar to our ears and see the characteristic markings and motions so faithfully portrayed. One of the chief charms of the book is its uniformity. No species is slighted, and the care with which the author dwells upon diagnostic details of plumages, actions, and songs has perhaps never

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<sup>1</sup> A Guide to the | Birds of New England | and | Eastern New York | Con-  
taining a Key for each Season and short | Descriptions of over two hundred  
and | fifty Species with particular Refer- | ence to their Appearance | in the  
Field | By | Ralph Hoffmann | Member of the American Ornithologists' Union  
| With four full-page plates by Louis | Agassiz Fuertes and nearly | one hun-  
dred cuts in | the text | [vignette] | Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin  
and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1904. — 12mo, pp. i-xiii,  
+ 1-357, pll. iv, cuts in text. \$1.50.